

## Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 EB-03 PRS-01 OES-02 ACDA-10

NEA-06 /061 W

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R 131857Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7530

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06537

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS

REF: STATE 35812

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY PROPOSES AGENDA FOR MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AND FRENCH (CAP) POLICY PLANNERS INCLUDE "EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION," EUROPEAN DEFENSE, INDIAN OCEAN AND NATO SOUTHERN FLANK PROBLEMS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ENERGY SUBJECT LIKELY TO BE USEFUL TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH PLANNERS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY WELCOMES PROPOSAL FOR MEETING BETWEEN FRENCH AND U.S. POLICY PLANNERS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF APAG MEETING IN APRIL. CONVERSATIONS WILL HELP US DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DEGREE TO WHICH NEW TEAM AT QUAI D'ORSAY WILLING TO ENGAGE IN TYPE OF FRANK EXCHANGES WHICH CHARACTERIZE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRITISH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

3. CAP AGENDA PROPOSALS:  
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CAP HAS INFORMALLY PROPOSED FOLLOWING THREE AGENDA ITEMS:

-- ENERGY: UNLESS S/P HAS OVERRIDING REASONS TO THE CONTRARY, EMBASSY BELIEVES ENERGY SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS DISCUSSION TOPIC BETWEEN PLANNERS. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS HAVE RECENTLY HAD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND FRENCH CAN BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT OUR POSITION. CAP PLANNERS TEND TO TAKE HARDER LINE TOWARD U.S. ON ENERGY THAN SUBSTANTIVE OFFICES OF QUAI, AND WOULD HOPE IN APRIL DISCUSSIONS TO PENETRATE AND UNDERMINE U.S. THINKING THROUGH THIS CHANNEL. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO ADVANTAGES TO US IN DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT.

-- EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION: CAP PLANNERS ARE IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE FRENCH INTELLECTUALS WHO ARGUE THAT U.S. ACTING AGAINST ITS OWN LONGTERM INTERESTS IN EUROPE BY SYSTEMATICALLY OPPOSING POLICIES ALLEGEDLY DESIGNED TO ENHANCE EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. AMONG EXAMPLES CITED ARE F-104 AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT COMPETITION; U.S. INSISTENCE ON CONSUMER SOLIDARITY IN IEA WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE INHIBITING DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY; AND U.S. OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION OF COMMON MARKET PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS TO IRAN. EMBASSY FEELS IT IMPORTANT THAT RECORD OF U.S. CONSTRUCTIVE PERFORMANCE CONCERNING UNITED EUROPE BE WELL UNDERSTOOD, AS WELL AS FACT THAT U.S. DEFENSE OF OWN INTERESTS PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. SUPPORT FOR INCREASED POLITICAL UNITY IN EUROPE. DESPITE THE EMOTIONALISM AND YEARS OF GAULLIST PROPAGANDA WHICH ARE PART OF BACKGROUND TO THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO ACCEPT THIS AGENDA ITEM.

-- EUROPEAN DEFENSE: FRANCE'S DEFENSE POLICY HAS BEEN UNDER RE-EXAMINATION WITHIN THE GOF FOR ALMOST A YEAR. WHILE WE HAVE VERY LITTLE CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THIS POLICY ARE IN THE MAKING, THERE HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT INDICATIONS TO SUGGEST THAT SOME CHANGE WILL OCCUR, AND

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THAT THIS COULD BRING FRANCE CLOSER TO NATO. WE HOPE THAT GISCARD'S STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE AT THE END OF MARCH ON DEFENSE POLICY WILL CLARIFY JUST HOW MUCH "CHANGE WITHOUT RISK" HE INTENDS TO BRING TO DEFENSE POLICY. THE SUBJECT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR TIMELY AND USEFUL FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PLANNERS.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGENDA:

IN ADDITION TO ITEMS DISCUSSED PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH,  
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING:

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R 131857Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 06537

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A. INDIAN OCEAN: IN PARIS 2657, WE DESCRIBED THE OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS THAT COULD ACCRUE TO THE US AS A RESULT OF A MORE SYSTEMATIC AND REGULAR CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WITH THE FRENCH ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. OUR CONTACTS WITH THE FRENCH SINCE THAT CABLE SUGGEST THAT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MUTUALLY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT EXISTS WITH FRENCH INTEREST CENTERED ON THE PERSIAN GULF. THIS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND US POLICY PLANNERS IN APRIL.

B. NATO SOUTHERN FLANK: THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY THAT, IN VARYING DEGREES, CHARACTERIZES PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY' GREECE AND TURKEY, IS A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF THE GOF, AS IT IS WITH OUR GOVERNMENT. WE THINK POLICY PLANNERS ON BOTH SIDES COULD USEFULLY EXPLORE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THIS INSTABILITY AND ASPECTS OF POLICY PLANNING DESIGNED TO FORESTALL THE RISKS, OR, IF NECESSARY,

REDRESS UNFAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. CAP'S BUREAUCRATIC POSITION AND SUBSTANTIVE ROLE:

UNDER JOBERT, THE CAP APPEARED TO SERVE AS A SUB-  
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STITUTE FOR THE BUREAUCRACY DURING THE RARE PERIODS WHEN  
JOBERT DECIDED TO UTILIZE QUAI EXPERTISE. UNDER  
SAUVAGNARGUES, THE CAP APPEARS TO BE ONE OF MANY SOURCES  
OF ADVICE TO THE MINISTER, AND IN THIS CONTEXT, SEEMS TO  
BE WORKING IN TANDEM WITH THE BUREAUCRACY. CONSEQUENTLY,  
TENSIONS BETWEEN CAP AND THE REGIONAL BUREAUS SEEM TO  
HAVE DISAPPEARED. ALTHOUGH CAP STAFFERS CLAIM TO PLAY  
A MAJOR ROLE IN POLICY MAKING, WE HAVE YET TO IDENTIFY  
A MAJOR FRENCH POLICY THAT CAN BE DIRECTLY TRACED TO THE  
CAP. IN SUMMARY, CAP APPEARS TO OCCUPY ABOUT THE SAME  
POSITION IN THE BUREAUCRATIC PECKING ORDER AS FOREIGN  
OFFICE PLANNING STAFFS IN BONN AND LONDON.

6. CAP STAFF:

CAP STAFF REMAINS THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN PARIS  
A-173 OF MARCH 20, 1974, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

A. VIGNAL DID JOIN CAP AS ITS FOURTH MEMBER.

B. JEAN-FRANCOIS LIONNET, A 25 YEAR OLD DIPLOMAT,  
HAS ALSO JOINED THE STAFF AS ITS FIFTH STAFFER. HE HAS  
PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN NEW YORK, LONDON AND GUATEMALA.

7. AMBASSADOR RUSH WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH LORD,  
BARTHOLOMEW, ETC., AT 3:30 P.M. ON APRIL 14. WE WOULD  
PLAN FOR WASHINGTON VISITORS TO MEET WITH OTHERS IN  
EMBASSY FOLLOWING MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR. GIVEN  
LOCATION AND SCHEDULE OF APAG MEETING OUTSIDE OF PARIS,  
WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE PRACTICAL FOR WASHINGTON REPS  
TO MEET WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS EXCEPT AT SITE OF APAG  
MEETING (I.E., FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT BE ATTENDING  
SAME MEETING) OR IN COURSE OF PLANNING TALKS AT THE  
QUAI.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MEETING AGENDA, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY POLICIES, PLANNING MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS06537  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750088-0741  
**From:** PARIS  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750354/aaaabwll.tel  
**Line Count:** 215  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SP  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 35812  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006